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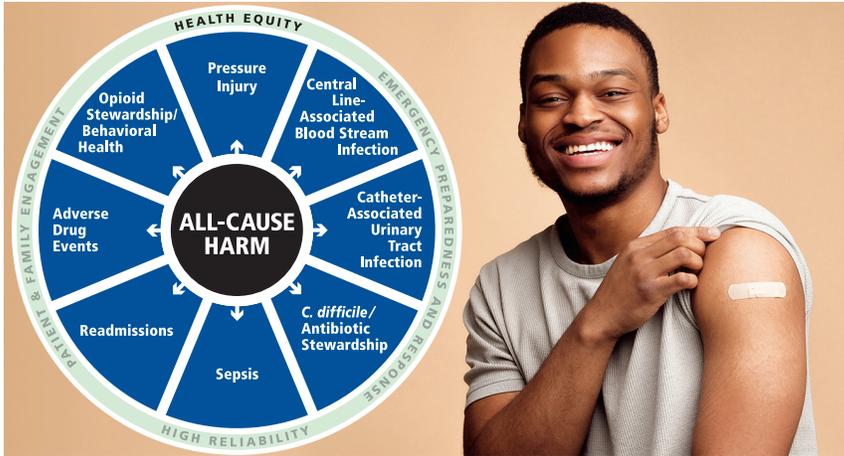
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Hospital Quality Improvement Contractors  
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# HEALTH EQUITY GUIDE

August 2023



## Overview of Health Coverage and Care for Individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

An in-depth analysis of 2021 American Community Survey data highlights gaps in coverage and care that patients with limited English proficiency (LEP) experience. Brief highlights from the findings indicate:

- A little more than 60% of individuals with LEP are Spanish-speaking adults.
- Individuals with LEP are more likely to be uninsured.
- Individuals with LEP are more likely to have lower incomes and educational attainment levels.
- Some states (e.g., California, New York, Texas, Florida, Hawaii, and New Jersey) have a higher share of individuals with LEP.

Language barriers and lack of access to care persist in individuals with LEP and ultimately result in worse health outcomes including adverse events, reduced medication adherence, and higher risk of readmissions, among others.

## CMS Inaugural Health Equity Conference Materials

The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released presentation materials from its inaugural two-day health equity conference. The material focuses on bridging disparities by addressing social drivers of health and the pandemic's impact on access to care, using data to advance health equity, and including condition-specific presentations.

The [CMS HHS YouTube channel](#) also provides video recordings from the event.

## August is National Immunization Awareness, National Minority Donor Awareness, and National Breastfeeding Month

The CDC is promoting [resources](#) in English and Spanish for health professionals to discuss vaccinations.

National Minority Donor Awareness promotes [outreach and education](#) especially among communities of color.

The US Breastfeeding Committee's 2023 theme celebrates the importance of equity and encourages the use of several [resources](#) to promote breastfeeding.

## Rural/CAH Corner

### Rural Social Isolation Podcast



This podcast discusses the negative effects of rural social isolation, how isolation rates among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in addition to the LGBTQ+ population are higher, and proposes interventions to decrease isolation.

### Interdisciplinary Partnership Improves Health Outcomes in South Carolina

This article highlights an innovative interdisciplinary partnership called VeggieRx, a produce prescription program which provides eligible Clemson Health Clinic patients with free produce, recipes, cooking and nutrition classes. Students in Clemson's medical interpreting and translating class volunteer to help with Spanish translation services.

## In the News

### [The Area Deprivation Index Is The Most Scientifically Validated Neighborhood-Level Tool For Measuring Health Inequity](#)

The Area Deprivation Index was created by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) and is a scientific validated tool that shares neighborhood disadvantage measures with the public. CMS' Accountable Care Organization Realizing Equity, Access and Community Health (ACO REACH) model uses a formula based on the ADI to pay ACOs for serving more disadvantaged communities. The article provides responses to some concerns surrounding the ADI.

### [Shared Decision-Making and Racial or Ethnic Concordance Reduces Health Expenditures](#)

In a newly published article in Medical Care, researchers found that a 3% increase in high-quality, shared decision-making (SDM) is associated with a 10% reduction in health care expenditures. Racial and ethnic concordance between patients and clinicians increase the reduction, especially among Black patients seen by Black clinicians. The findings may inform

policies intended to address disparities in health care and reduce the risk of health care overutilization, as well as strengthen efforts to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of the U.S. health care workforce.

### [SNAP combats Racial Divides, Study Finds](#)

Households experiencing food insecurity that do not participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) were more likely to be Black or multiracial according to this article. SNAP can assist in minimizing inequities caused by a lack of access to nutritious foods, and experts say this furthers the need to promote access and enrollment in the program.

### [Designing a Road Map for Action to Address Bias and Racism Within a Large Academic Medical Center](#)

Mount Sinai Health System developed an interdisciplinary taskforce that designed a roadmap to unify and systematize antiracism efforts across the system. This paper highlights the organization's efforts to collect race, language, and ethnicity data, review personnel and mentorship, evaluate supply-chain for equitable representation, and other impactful strategies.



For more health equity news: <https://qi.ipro.org/health-equity-resources>

## Upcoming Events

### [The Road to Inequity is Often Paved with Good Intentions](#)

University of Minnesota  
August 1  
10:00 – 11:00 AM ET

### [Building the Health Care Workforce America Needs](#)

National Health Equity  
Grand Rounds  
August 8

### [Approaching Telehealth Through a Health Equity Lens at the Health System and Patient Levels, a Children's Colorado Example](#)

AAMC  
August 18  
3:00 – 4:00 PM ET

For a PDF version of this newsletter, including hyperlinks to resources for additional information, scan this QR code.



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[bit.ly/43iLAyH](https://bit.ly/43iLAyH)